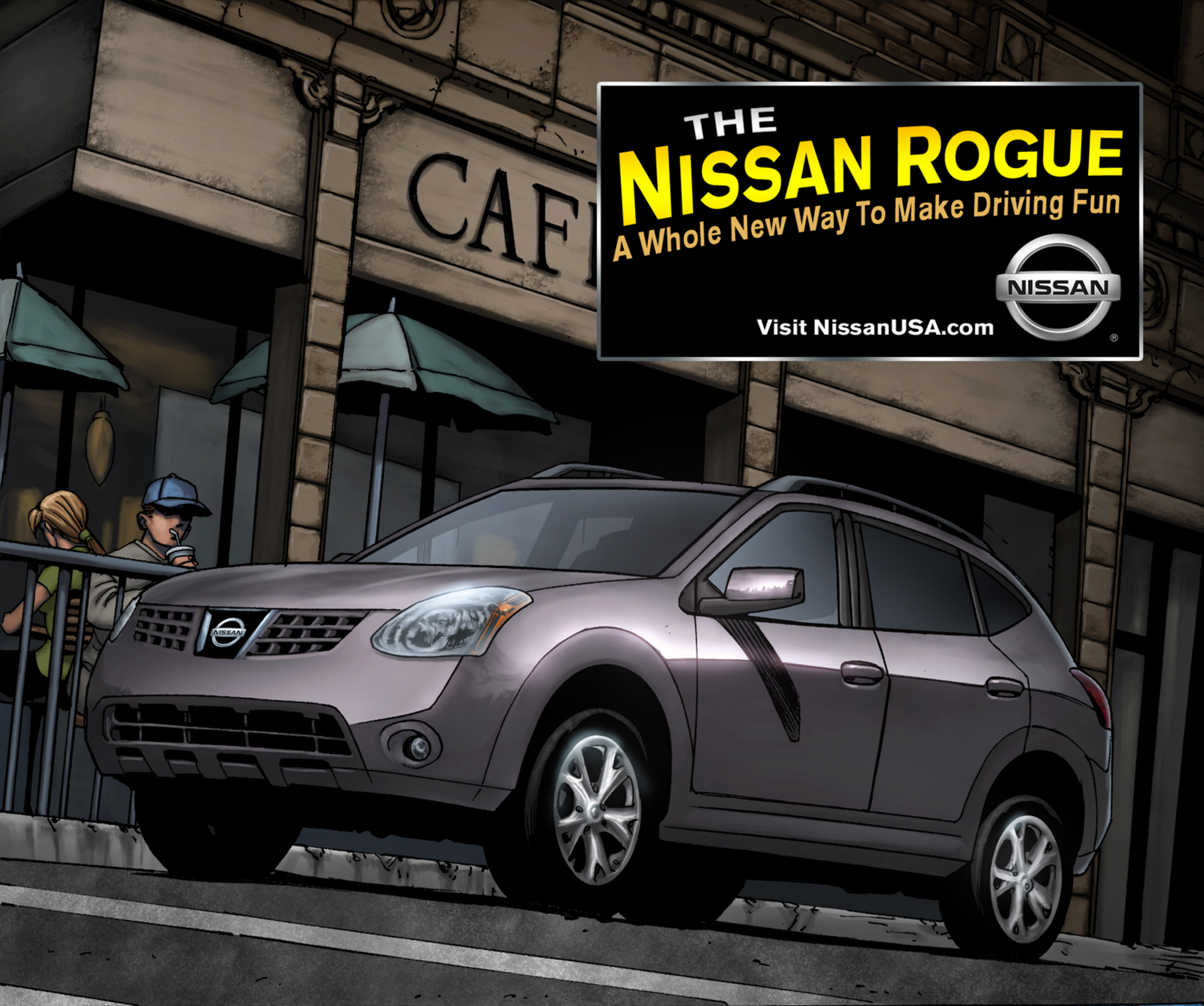


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HEROES

CHAPTER 126

COMRADES

Part 1

When NOAH BENNET joined the Primatech Company he was partnered with CLAUDE – a man who could turn himself invisible. In their early years, both men worked under the supervision of IVAN SPEKTOR, a Russian Company Agent. After a few years of experience, HRG and Claude are now on a bag and tag mission in Moscow – receiving help from a newly retired Ivan. But Ivan's presence could prove to be very damaging...

MOSCOW.
DECEMBER. 1998.

MY PREDECESSORS
TRAINED ME WELL
FOR WHAT I DO.

I'VE PREPARED
MYSELF FOR
EVERYTHING THAT
COULD BE THROWN
MY WAY.

BUT ONE THING YOU
CAN'T GUARD YOURSELF
FROM -- IS THE
PSYCHOLOGICAL TOLL.

IVAN
SPEKTOR.
IT'S BEEN
A LONG
TIME.

HELLO, NOAH.
GOOD TO SEE YOU
ON THE HUNT IN
MY TURBID CITY
AGAIN.

WHAT MAKES
YOU THINK I'M
HUNTING? MAYBE
I'M HERE ON
VACATION.

YOU NEVER KNOW HOW THE
JOB WILL SCREW WITH YOUR
HEAD UNTIL IT'S OVER.

DA. AND
MAYBE I'M
HANDSOME LIKE
BARYSHNIKOV.

WHEN ON
VACATION IN RUSSIA YOU
DRINK VODKA. WHEN ON
DUTY YOU DRINK ESPRESSO.

I'M GUESSING
YOU'RE HERE TO
BAG THE ONE
CALLED "THE
RUSSIAN"?

CAN'T
SAY WE'RE
NOT CLEVER
WITH OUR
NAMES.

LET
ME OFFER
MY SERVICES.
I NOTICE YOU
DON'T HAVE A
PARTNER.

ACTUALLY,
HE DOES.

YOU'RE
ON DUTY.

YOU'RE VERY
RECEPTIVE FOR A
RETIRED AGENT.

CLAUDE.
I DIDN'T SEE
YOU THERE.

THAT'S
GENERALLY THE
IDEA OF BEING
INVISIBLE.

GOOD. WE
CAN USE THAT.
LET US GO. YOUR
RUSSIAN RIDES
THE METRO.



THE RUSSIAN. OUR KNOWLEDGE ON WHAT HE'S CAPABLE OF IS LIMITED.



SOURCES TELL US HE'S THE PATRIARCH OF A FAMILY. ALL MEN. VARYING IN AGES.



ALL OF THEM CRIMINALS. CON ARTISTS. THIEVES... AND KILLERS.



THEY MYSTERIOUSLY ALWAYS EVADE CAPTURE FROM AUTHORITIES. RAISING A RED FLAG THAT SUGGESTS USE OF AN ABILITY.

COMRADES

Part One

CHRISTOPHER ZATTA
Writer

MICHAEL GAYDOS
Art

EDGAR DELGADO
Colors

COMIC CRAFT
Lettering

NANCI QUESADA
Production



CATCHING THIS RUSSIAN WILL BE THE FIRST STEP TO BRINGING THEM ALL DOWN.



AND IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ABOUT TO LEARN EXACTLY WHAT HE CAN DO.



SLOW
DOWN THERE,
OLD MAN.



UM... WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
YOUR FACE?



YOU'RE NOT
THE RUSSIAN
WE'RE LOOKING
FOR.

BE
CAREFUL,
CLAUDE! HE'S
AN AGE
SHIFTER!

AN AGE
WHAT
NOW?



HOW DID
WE NOT KNOW
HE COULD DO
THAT?

I'VE HAD
MY SUSPICIONS.
HURRY. GET ON
THE TRAIN.

A comic book panel showing two men standing in the aisle of a train car. The man on the left is older, with grey hair, wearing a grey suit and a red and white striped tie. He has his right hand on the side of the train car. The man on the right is younger, with dark hair and a beard, wearing a dark blue jacket. They are both looking towards the right. The background shows the interior of the train car with windows and seats.

WE THOUGHT WE
WERE AFTER A
FAMILY OPERATION...

THE OLD MAN --
IN CHARGE.

THE SON -- A
YOUNG MAN
IN HIS PRIME.

THE GRANDKIDS --
A TEENAGER AND
YOUNG BOY.

THAT OLD MAN
MIGHT HAVE BEEN
HARMLESS, NOAH.
BUT THE YOUNG
MAN IS A
KILLER.

I'VE SEEN
WHAT HE CAN
DO WITH A
KNIFE.

AND I'VE
READ THE REPORTS.
BUT HE HASN'T
POSED US ANY REAL
THREAT.

HE'S A
THREAT BY HIS
VERY NATURE.
HE HAS AN
ABILITY.

A comic book panel showing a man in a dark suit and tie leaning over a train car. He is looking down at a woman who is sitting on the edge of the train car. The woman is wearing a green jacket and brown pants. She is looking up at the man. In the background, another person is visible sitting on the train car. The scene is set on a train platform with tracks and other train cars visible in the distance.

BUT ALL ALONG IT WAS THE
SAME PERSON. SHIFTING
HIS AGE BACK AND FORTH.



IVAN HAS A POINT. IF THE RUSSIAN ENDANGERS A LIFE -- THERE'S CAUSE FOR TERMINATION.



EVEN IF I EMPATHIZE WITH HIS CONFLICT.



BEING... DIFFERENT.



IT DOESN'T MATTER.

BECAUSE EVEN THOUGH HE'S NOT LIKE ME -- HE HAS HIS HUMANITY.

HE'S GOTTA KNOW RIGHT FROM WRONG.

UH OH... HE'S DOING IT AGAIN.

TAKE HIM DOWN!



YOU CAN'T,
NOAH. YOU
CAN'T SHOOT
A KID.

HE'S NOT
REALLY A CHILD.
HE'S JUST TRYING
TO GET IN YOUR
HEAD.



BUT WHAT ABOUT
MY HUMANITY?

TO BE CONTINUED...